

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

# REPORT CARD

for 2010



# BUILDING THE NEW DJJ



A NEW FUTURE, BRICK BY BRICK

## A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

As we present our seventh annual “Juvenile Justice Report Card,” the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is proud to report that in spite of economically challenged conditions, we are able to share some good news. Many accomplishments have come about over the last seven years. These accomplishments should make us very proud; however, there is always new work to be done, and the need is great for additional resources.

Since 2003, South Carolina has seen nearly a 30% drop in youth crime and delinquency referrals. Just this year, we witnessed the number of incarcerated youth drop to a record low of 175, which is a 60% reduction in the number of imprisoned children.

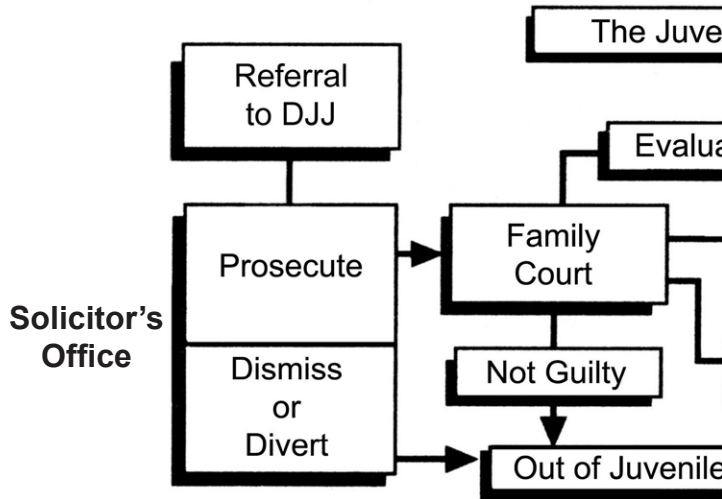
These positive results are because of greatly improved practices to deter juvenile crime. We now have innovative community-based programs such as Arbitration Programs, Teen After-School Centers and the Teen After-School Center Plus Program, a new initiative that provides job readiness skills training and employment for teens. There is also better community supervision of youthful offenders through our intensive supervision services and the placement of some committed youth into wilderness programs and group homes, rather than incarceration. Because of the intensive supervision services, which tightens supervision of offenders and requires smaller case loads, there has been a 38% reduction in recidivism for serious and violent offenders and lower caseloads for standard probation officers. We also have created public/private partnerships with community organizations, the faith-based community, institutions of higher learning, and others.

Indeed, progress has led us down a path that is unlike the days when DJJ was in the midst of a 13-year federal lawsuit. We have changed housing and treatment conditions, and we have strengthened our rehabilitation and education of youthful offenders.

Too, the restorative justice philosophy of giving back to the community impacted by youth crime is being embraced by staff and volunteers. In 2009 and 2010, nearly 3,000 youth, volunteers and staff statewide participated in community service projects to give back. In closing, our hope is for a better future where citizens are safer and children are prospering, leaving us (DJJ) believing that we “just won’t quit helping children and families.”

*Bill Byars*

Director, South Carolina  
Department of Juvenile Justice



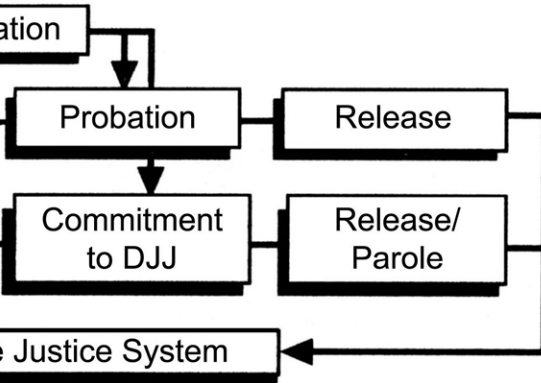
Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program, such as Juvenile Arbitration, or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This evaluation involves psychological, social, and educational assessments conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.



## Juvenile Justice Process



A family court judge may find that a juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at:  
[www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php](http://www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php)

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases  
Referred to DJJ

2009 – 2010	20,394
2008 – 2009	23,111
2007 – 2008	23,826
2006 – 2007	24,699
2005 – 2006	25,820

Five Most Frequent  
Offenses Associated  
with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Disturbing Schools
- #2 Simple Assault & Battery
- #3 Shoplifting
- #4 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #5 Simple Posses./Marijuana

Offenders  
Diverted by Juvenile  
Arbitration Programs

2009 – 2010	4,631
2008 – 2009	5,470
2007 – 2008	5,086
2006 – 2007	5,294
2005 – 2006	5,215

Daily Population  
Close of FY 2009-10

	2009-2010
Hardware Secure Custody (committed and noncommitted)	594
Staff Secure Custody (community placements)	244
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	201
Marine Programs	86
Mental Health Placements	53
Total:	1,178

**CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ:** In FY 2009-10, 20,394 cases were referred to DJJ, an almost 30% drop in the last seven years. Data collected by DJJ and Juvenile Arbitration Programs (early intervention) at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 66 percent of the population was male, 59 percent was African-American, and the average age was 16 years old.

**FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ:** The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was disturbing schools. No felony offenses occurred in the top five reasons for referral to DJJ. Only 8.9% of cases involved violent and serious offenses.

**OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS:** Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

**DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ:** At the close of Fiscal Year 2009-10, a daily population of 594 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ. There has been an unprecedented 59 percent drop in daily population of long-term hardware secure facilities at the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC) since 2003.

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

### Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

#### Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2009 - 2010	4,388
2008 - 2009	4,973
2007 - 2008	5,075
2006 - 2007	5,485
2005 - 2006	5,892

#### JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

**CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES:** The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 5,317 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Eighty-five percent of juveniles on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

#### Youth Served by TASC

2009-2010	656 Youth
2008-2009	*460 Youth
2007-2008	506 Youth
2006-2007	286 Youth

\*Program was eliminated mid-year due to budget cuts

#### TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. After being eliminated in the mid-year budget cuts of 2008, 24 TASC sites were restored in fiscal year 2010. A record 656 students were served in 2010.

#### DJJ School District Graduates

2009 - 2010	143
2008 - 2009	147
2007 - 2008	176
2006 - 2007	149
2005 - 2006	134

#### SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES: DJJ

operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the seventh year, DJJ's school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award. DJJ schools are also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

#### Notification to Victims Regarding Case Status

2009 - 2010	16,904
2008 - 2009	16,654
2007 - 2008	16,004
2006 - 2007	15,450
2005 - 2006	14,950

**NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS:** DJJ strives to serve crime victims. Upon request, victims of juvenile crime are notified regarding the status of the offender(s) related to their individual cases through DJJ's Juvenile Justice Management System (JJMS). In fiscal year 2009-10, DJJ notified 16,904 victims regarding their case status.

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark

### (Repairing the harm to victims and community)

#### Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	854
Amount Ordered:	\$ 507,769
Amount Paid:	\$ 385,303
85% of Offenders Paid in Full	

**RESTITUTION:** Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 8,376 cases closed during FY 2009-10, when restitution was ordered, 85 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$385,303.

#### Restorative Community Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	3,695
Hours Ordered:	100,763
Hours Worked:	87,673 (87%)
\$ Value:	\$ 635,629 (calculated at minimum wage)

**WORK SERVICE:** Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they caused. In 8,376 cases closed during FY 2009-10 , 100,763 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 87,673, which is 87 percent of the work service ordered.

#### Victim Satisfaction

How would you rate your overall experience with the system?  
(Rated 1 to 5 with 1 being "most negative" and 5 being "most positive.")

	<u>2010</u>
Rated "5"	38%
Rated "4"	32%
Rated "3"	16%
Rated "2"	11%
Rated "1"	3%

#### MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:

The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. Over the past 6 years, crime victims across South Carolina were surveyed to determine their level of satisfaction with the juvenile justice system. Victims were asked to rate their overall experience with the juvenile justice system. On a rating scale with 1 being most negative to 5 being most positive, 70% percent of victims surveyed rated their satisfaction at a four or five.



# A Report Card to Our Citizens

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## COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark (Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

### Drug & Alcohol Abuse Offenders Testing Negative

Number Tested: 1,706

Percent Tested  
Negative: 79%

### RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:

In 8,376 cases closed during FY 2010-10, 20 percent of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 79 percent of cases. Marijuana was involved in 93 percent of all positive tests.

### School Participation

Youth Enrolled in  
Educational Program or Vocational  
Training at Case Closure:  
7,214 Youth  
(86%)

Youth Not Enrolled but  
Employed at Case Closure  
15 Youth  
(1.3%)

**SCHOOL PARTICIPATION:** During FY 2009-10, 86 percent of the 8,376 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 1,162 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 15 were employed.

### Employability Training

Youth Completing  
Employability Training  
(secure facilities)

33 Youth

**EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING:** Prior to mid-year 2008 budget cuts, DJJ's employability training program served 684 youth a year in the community. The training program now only exists in some secure facilities, where 33 youth completed the program during fiscal year 2009-10.

### Citizen Participation

# of Volunteers: 1,784

Hrs. Contributed: 30,190

Value: \$218,878  
(calculated at minimum wage)

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY:** During FY 2009-10, 1,784 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors' Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers, in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 30,190 hours of services. Currently, DJJ is served by more volunteers than permanent staff.

COMPETENCY

COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark  
(Protecting the public)

15-Year Comparison of  
Violent & Serious  
Juvenile Cases in  
South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2009-10	1,813
1994-95	3,589

Table A  
Juveniles Committed to  
the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2009-10	1,977
2008-09	1,953
2007-08	2,024
2006-07	1,968
2005-06	1,952

Table B  
Daily Population  
Juveniles Held in DJJ's  
Detention Center

Year	Number
2009-10	99
2008-09	108
2007-08	105
2006-07	122
2005-06	132

Recidivism Rate  
Juvenile Offenders on  
Probation/Parole or in  
Arbitration Programs

Number of Offenders	Recidivism Rate
8,376	15%

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:

Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990's. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 49 percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years.

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action (seen in Table B). Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center has had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center. The population levels still exceed the Detention Center's design capacity of 72.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,376 cases closed during FY 2009-10, 85 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision. Offenders receiving DJJ's new intensive supervision services were 37.5% less likely to re-offend than those under standard supervision.



# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## Improvements Since 2003

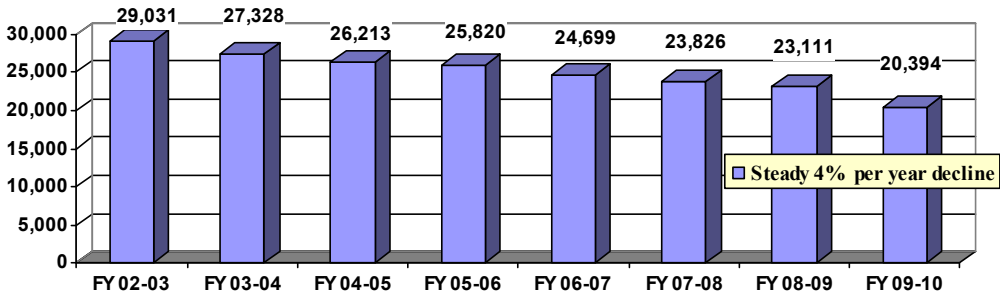
### SCDJJ Caseload Measures Comparing FY 2002-2003 to FY 2009-2010

Measure	FY 02-03	FY 09-10	% Change
Family Court Intake Cases	29,031	20,394	-29.8%
Probation Dispositions	6,431	5,345	-16.9%
Average Daily Population of Committed Juveniles in Hardware Secure Confinement *	871	321	-63.1%

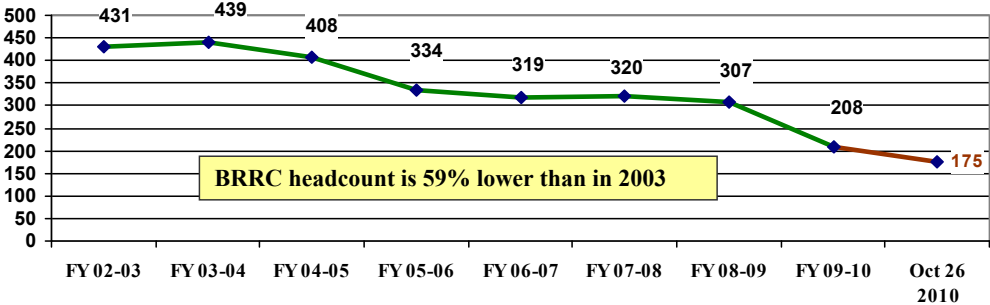
The reduction in crime and placement has enabled DJJ to sustain cuts thus far without very seriously impacting public safety.

\*Regional Center for Admissions Processing or Broad River Road Complex (BRRC)

### Eight-Year Trend – Number of Referrals to SCDJJ Intake



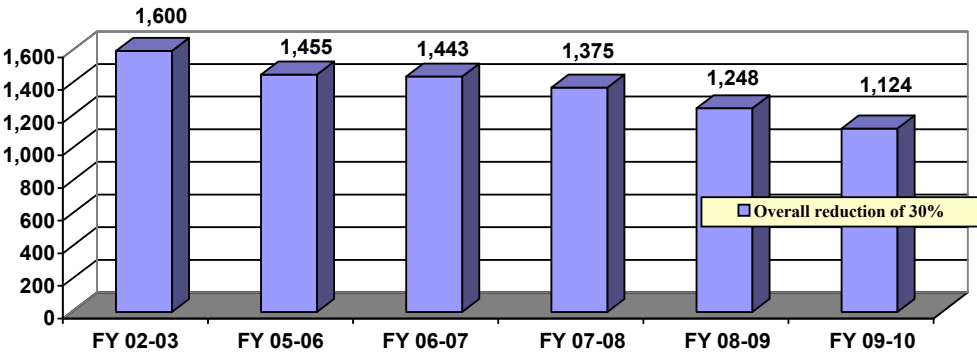
### Decline of Population within the BRRC: 2003 - 2010



# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## Improvements Since 2003

Number of Juveniles in any SCDJJ bed





**Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance  
Measurements Partners**

**The Honorable David M. Pascoe**  
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.**  
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable C. Kelly Jackson**  
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable William B. Rogers, Jr.**  
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable W. Barney Giese**  
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Leon Lott**  
Sheriff, Richland County

**The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.**  
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Harold W. Gowdy, III**  
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Jerry W. Peace**  
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Scarlett A. Wilson**  
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams**  
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Donald V. Myers**  
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable E. L. Clements, III**  
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Robert M. Ariail**  
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III**  
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable J. Greg Hembree**  
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett**  
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit

## **Helping Resources for Families and Crime Victims**

### **Parent Support and Training**

Parents Anonymous SC (800) 326-8621

### **Services for People with Disabilities & Special Needs**

SC Department of Disabilities &

Special Needs (888) 376-4636

Pro Parents (parent support/training) (800) 759-4776

### **Services for People with Mental Health Needs**

SC Department of Mental Health (803) 898-8581

SC Continuum of Care (803) 734-4500

Federation of Families (866) 779-0402

Managed Treatment Service (803) 245-5147

### **Job Training & Education Services for Youth**

SC Vocational Rehabilitation (800) 832-7526

Job Corps (803) 245-5101

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (803) 896-6480

### **Residential Services for Girls**

Florence Crittenton Home

(serves pregnant girls) (843) 722-7526

Crossroads Group Home (864) 246-0266

### **Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment/Counseling Services**

SC Department of Alcohol

& Other Drug Abuse Services (803) 896-5555

Palmetto Treatment Center (877) 335-4673

William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Center (803) 534- 2328

### **Residential Services for Children**

SC Association of Children's

Homes & Family Services (803) 996-5437

Carolina Children's Home (803) 787-2306

Connie Maxwell Children's Home (864) 942-1400

Epworth Children's Home (803) 256-7394

### **Services for Victims of Crime**

SC Crime Victim's Ombudsman (888) 238-0697

SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) (888) 852-1900

SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
and Sexual Assault (800) 260-9293

### **Information on Local Services**

DHEC Care Line (800) 868-0404

For additional information regarding resource needs, or services provided by DJJ, please go to **[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)**.



*DJJ begins demolition of its old dormitories--as newer, safer dormitories are built. DJJ's Bill Rogers Community Connections Center, which was built entirely with private donations, can be seen in the background.*

## DJJ's Mission

The Governor's mission is to raise personal incomes of South Carolinians by creating a better environment for economic growth, delivering government services more openly and efficiently, improving quality of life, and improving our state's education.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice supports the Governor's mission by protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

For more information contact:  
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice  
Office of Community Justice  
(803) 896-9766  
[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)

The printing of this document was generously supported by the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina Law School.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. THE FOLLOWING OFFICES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES:

Title IX –Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595  
Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484